Pipeline collapse in Thane, Mumbai

2436. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a pipeline has collapsed in Thane in Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons died and injured in this accident; and

(d) the action Government has taken against the responsible officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. On 23rd October 2009, a 43m long girder weighing approximately 125 MT launched across six Railway Tracks of Central Railways at km. 31/13-14 toppled from its position at about 10.35-10.45 AM. Girder fell on abutting Structural Steel Bridge carrying 500 mm dia-water supply pipeline. This led to collapse of structural steel bridge also. A local train approaching the place at the time collided with the fallen structures resulting in death of two persons and serious injuries to three others. An enquiry has been instituted in the matter by the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Technical breakdowns in Delhi Metro

2437. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the technical breakdowns in Delhi Metro has increased and its services are on the verge of collapse;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has directed DMRC to ensure faultless services to its commuters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) and (b) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. has reported that technical breakdowns in Delhi Metro have not increased and that its services are not on the verge of collapse.

(c) and (d) Delhi Metro services are running reliably. Hence, the question of Government giving directions to DMRC does not arise.

Water disputes between States

2438. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken notice of increasing number of cases in the courts on the water disputes between the States due to violation of lower riparian rights while new proposals for reservoir and diversion of water of upper part in other States; and

(b) if so, whether any proposal is contemplated to make the decision of Government final or otherwise, to create an independent permanent India River Water and Waterways Regulatory Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) As per the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956, the water dispute arises among two or more State Governments when the Central Government receives request under Section 3 of the Act from any of the basin States with regard to existence of water dispute. The mechanism for settlement of water dispute is already available in the form of Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 which provides for settlement of disputes by negotiations failing which referring such dispute to a tribunal for adjudication. Inter-state water disputes presently referred to the Central Government under ISRWD Act-1956 are related to Cauvery, Krishna, Ravi and Beas, Mahadayi and Vansadhara Rivers.

The ISRWD Act, 1956 has been amended in the year 2002 whereby the adjudication of the water disputes by the tribunal has been made time-bound. Further, as per provisions of the ISRWD Act, 1956, the decision of the tribunal after publication in the official Gazette by the Central Government shall be final and binding on the parties to the dispute and shall have same force as an order or decree of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Grants under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

2439. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the grants under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, sanctioned for various major and medium irrigation projects, since inception of this programme, project-wise and State-wise, till date;

(b) the achievements thereof, project-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether there are such projects, which were announced 5, 10, 15, 20 years ago, but are still incomplete;

(d) if so, the details and reasons thereof;

(e) the extra amount spent, project-wise, besides the cost of the original project due to the above delay;

(f) by when these delayed projects are likely to be completed; and

(g) for delay and cost escalation, was anyone held responsible and punished, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was started in the year 1996-97 with provision of central loan assistance to the state governments. Grant component was introduced in the AIBP in the year 2004-05. Project- wise and state wise grant released to the major/medium projects under AIBP and cumulative central assistance comprising of loan and grant released to the projects since their inclusion in the AIBP is given at the Annexure-I [*See* Appendix 218 Annexure No. 10].